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Volume 12 SPRING 1962 Number 1

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS
A Publication of The Nature Conservancy

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Volume 12, Number 1 Spring 1962

President's Message

To the Members of the Conservancy:

As I sit writing this at my home in Connecticut, my mind keeps going back over the recent transcontinental trip I took on behalf of the Conservancy. Because of the pressure of time -- I have, of course, a full time job that I also must attend to -- I was not able to visit as many areas as I would have liked. But the face of the United States as seen even from the heights of jet flight is a great and impressive sight -- towering mountains, deep valleys, lush forests, barren deserts and endless plains, all of it part of our heritage and worth saving.

But the recurrent problem is finance, particularly for the necessary, but unromantic overhead that is an essential part of an organization such as ours. We keep it to an absolute minimum. In fact, I know of no national organization doing as much work as we are with less overhead expense.

Although we have made great progress this year, we still need help. And so I would like to ask you this simple question: Can each of you raise twenty-five dollars for operating expenses?

It is not a large sum of money, but if every member would take on that amount as his personal quota, we would have no further problems in this one important area. Then our full energies could go into the acquisition of land.

How many of you will accept this challenge?

Alexander B. Adams

SPRING 1962: Pictured on the front cover is "Fawn in Freeze". Born odorless, fawns escape the attention of predators by remaining absolutely quiet--even when danger is near. Picture was taken on the Pawling Preserve, Dutchess County, New York State.

The Editor solicits the gift of articles, notes, photographs, and sketches on the various aspects of The Nature Conservancy. If possible, articles should be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of the paper. Photographs or negatives should have necessary data attached. All photographs, negatives and articles will be returned.

A Living Museum Vacation

by

Daniel Smiley

Those who operate summer resorts must necessarily take their vacations in the "off-seasons." For me, this means February. The idea of using this time to visit natural areas developed as a happy solution to two needs. First, for my work on the Natural Area Advisory Committee of The Nature Conservancy, I felt a concern to be better acquainted with its natural areas, and with the problems which project committees have to face in the preservation, care, and use of our nature preserves. Secondly, Walter Boardman had expressed the need for photographs of certain of our projects.

Winter might seem to be an undesirable time for this photography, but as we discussed the possibilities it was obvious that certain pictures could best be taken when there was no foliage to shade and obscure. Out of this trip developed my strong conviction that our natural areas should have more use for enjoyment, study, and inspiration during the winter months.

In advance there was much planning of routes, and correspondence to notify custodians of our plans, and to secure directions for finding certain areas. The response was most helpful and cordial.

Finally, on February 2nd, Virginia and I removed the back seat cushion of our little Volkswagen, and completely filled the rear section with our five priorities of equipment: cameras and photographic equipment; hip boots, Bean boots, insulated boots, down jackets, and such necessary gear; snowshoes; a suitcase full of books, and an FM radio for good music in the evenings; and dress-up clothing, which we used only twice, and then in quite deplorable condition from being buried under wet boots, or caught in the door.

Our tour took us first through Connecticut to eastern Massachusetts, then across central New York, northern Ohio and into Illinois. From there we enjoyed a preview of spring in Tennessee, with daffodils, bluebirds, and a phoebe before going north through Virginia and West Virginia. A day in Washington and two on Long Island completed our trip of 4,200 miles, with twenty nature preserves visited. The weather behaved reasonably well, with no major storms to test man and machine.

My primary objective of learning about natural areas was satisfactorily achieved. I am now, more than ever, convinced that once a piece of land is successfully acquired, the responsibility and opportunity for hard work and loving care has just begun. It was not the purpose of my trip to make critical inspections of The Nature Conservancy projects, but to learn how our natural areas are being used, and ways that committees can be assisted in meeting responsibilities of land ownership. Of the twenty areas visited, thirteen are Nature Conservancy projects, three are proposed projects, two were natural areas in which the Conservancy acted as agent for another organization during acquisition, and two were preserves that were set aside by other conservation organizations.

Scientific Research

Hawley Bog, in western Massachusetts, was visited on a crystal-clear, near-zero day. We snowshoed in over two feet of snow, noting tracks of the Varying Hare, with his automatic snowshoes. This is one of our newer projects, but it comes to us with ten years of ecological research by the University of Massachusetts. I found of special interest the following report of temperature studies:

> "For the past two years a definitive study of temperature has been made at 6 stations in the bog. The frost-free period on the open mat is extremely short, averaging 65 days, but on the north-facing slope the period of frost-free days is relatively long, about 150 days. Temperatures on the mat fluctuate extremely with a high of 92° F. and a low of -30° F., whereas on the adjoining north-facing slope there was a high of 79° F. and a low of -8° F. Temperature studies will become a fundamental part of the future analyses of the ecology of the bog."

In West Virginia, Cranesville Swamp was another highlight of the trip. The road to it was impassable, with alternating mud and four-foot snow drifts. However, the necessity of walking the last mile and a half allowed us to see square yards of road bank covered by arbutus, with buds already swelling. This swamp is a beautiful example of a much later stage of glacial depression evolution than the open water stage of Hawley Bog. Cranesville has been studied, and inventories made of the flora and fauna for over 50 years. Now the University of West Virginia is planning studies of its microclimatology. I urged that they correspond with the University of Massachusetts, and consider making parallel

studies to those at Hawley Bog, so that the results could be compared.

Scientific research should be encouraged on Conservancy projects where none is now being carried on. The Natural Area Advisory Committee would be glad to assist with suggestions and procedures found helpful by other projects.

Finances

Perhaps the most universal problem among the projects visited is the need for more money. With some, contributions are needed to use in purchasing land to round out holdings, or serve as buffer zones, thus eliminating some of the pressures of encroaching civilization. With others, relatively small sums are needed for signs and fencing. At Rocky Branch (Ill.) ordinary cattle fencing is sorely needed to prevent cows from coming down the draws into the branch where their trampling would destroy beautiful wild flowers this spring, and start erosion on this unstable soil.

Icicles at Rocky Branch (Ill.)

Here is an opportunity for some of our members to be of significant assistance to our projects. We all find it difficult to ask others for money, but in this field the need is great, and there will be concrete results to show for your efforts.

Human Problems

Slow progress is being made by project committees in posting property boundaries with Nature Conservancy Notices, and putting up entrance signs. Some committees feel that until their land acquisition is completed, or until they can arrange for a custodian, it is better not to call attention to the natural area by putting up signs. On two of the preserves we found ice fishing in progress, and in each case no arrangement for a custodian has been worked out though the need is appreciated. The taking of a few fish is of less concern than that the fisherman may release live bait of non-native species.

Project and chapter members who like to be outdoors can be of real service, even if their time is limited, by volunteering to undertake some custodial services for a project.

Moss Lake (N.Y.) on a zero day

The Western New York Chapter has done a commendable job in trying to meet several human relations problems, and has accomplished it entirely with volunteer helpers. Both at Moss Lake and Deer Lick Sanctuaries there are attractive entrance signs, as quoted on this page. Note that a positive approach is emphasized.

DEER LICK NATURE SANCTUARY

"This is an inviolate natural area where all living things, both plant and animal, are to be left undisturbed.

"If you respect our regulations, you are welcome to follow the foot trails to study and enjoy the outdoors.

"Hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, littering and the collecting, cutting, digging or removing of any plant, animal or other object is positively prohibited. No dogs or other pets allowed on or off their leash. Fires, smoking, picnicking are allowed in designated areas only.

"The Nature Conservancy
Washington, D.C."

Limited off-the-road parking has been provided, or is planned. There is a register in a box. A picnic area is designated, and a place for lunch fire is specified. There is a rubbish can, and primitive toilets. All these facilities for human use and enjoyment are confined to a small part of the total area of the preserves.

"Improvements"

Project members, by their questions, demonstrated that they had read Policy Bulletin No. 2. Clarification was needed on various points, especially in connection with what might be classified as "improvements" to our natural areas. These would be improvements only in the sense that they would facilitate human use and enjoyment of the area, or help to counteract disturbances that had been caused by human activities.

At Thompson Pond (New York), a rustic bridge had been constructed across the marshy outlet, to make it possible to walk all the way around the pond without either wading through muck (with resulting disturbance of the marsh), or trespassing on neighboring property. At Kings Point Pond (Long Island) we observed ducks and gulls sitting on the ice, where two years ago there was an impenetrable jungle of dead phragmites. This aggressive invader had been controlled by the use of chemicals, after careful investigation of the causes and effects involved. This is an interesting ecological story which is too long to tell here.

Interpretation

As we gain in understanding of motivation of humans, we realize that to achieve conservation, first there must be intellectual understanding, and second, emotional involvement. To gain the desired end, it is important that people be encouraged to understand and love nature. This process of assistance is now often called "interpretation." It is most effectively accomplished by personally guided walks by a qualified naturalist. Marked nature trails and museum exhibits have a place also.

DEER LICK NATURE SANCTUARY
THIS IS A WILDERNESS AREA WHERE ALL LIVING THINGS
BOTH PLANT AND ANIMAL ARE TO BE LEFT UNDISTURBED
IF YOU RESPECT OUR REGULATIONS YOU ARE WELCOME
FOLLOW THE FOOT TRAILS TO STUDY & ENJOY THE OUTDOORS
HUNTING FISHING TRAPPING CAMPING LITTERING AND THE COLLECTING
CUTTING DIGGING OR REMOVING OF ANY PLANT ANIMAL OR OTHER
OBJECT IS POSITIVELY PROHIBITED NO DOGS OR OTHER PETS ALLOWED
ARE ALLOWED IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY

Deer Lick Nature Sanctuary (N.Y.)

At Black Pond (Mass.) and Bergen Swamp (N.Y.) - (the latter not owned by The Nature Conservancy, but in the preservation of which the Conservancy had a small part), we learned that guided tours can be arranged, and that this service is much utilized. Other preserves are used on a more informal basis by bird watchers and hikers.

One complaint heard from several of the custodians of our Living Museum areas was that a minority of users were thoughtless or selfish, in picking wild flowers or collecting live plants for home gardens. It is impossible to put our outdoor "specimens" behind plate glass, as can other museums, so this becomes a problem of education and patrol.

Here, again, The Nature Conservancy needs the assistance of volunteers. The opportunities for helping with nature interpretation are numerous, and this activity is rewarding.

Esthetic Values

As we visited one natural area after another there was a growing satisfaction in knowing that these scientifically valuable and interesting and beautiful specimens of nature had been preserved. We enjoyed the various moods of nature, and the mental and physical effort to experience them, from bucking the chilling wind at Rip's Retreat (N.Y.) that made our eyes water as we admired the panorama of the Hudson River Valley, to the mellow sunshine that warmed our backs as we waded across a rushing trout stream to visit Mountain Meadow Farm (Va.).

We think of the great trees of Dysart Woods (Ohio) under leaden skies, and the lacy-edged ice islands formed on boulders in Cotton Hollow's (Conn.) Roaring Brook. There is a clear mental picture of the shadow on snow of a high bush blueberry witches'-broom. From other places we recall solidly frozen cranberries, nestled in sphagnum; shrew tunnels revealed by melting snow; and a fine view of a Redheaded Woodpecker gathering his lunch. Not all of the esthetic experiences were visual. We heard our first White-throats of the year at the edge of the Great Smoky National Park, bringing back memories of Catskill summits. In Ohio a normal sequence was reversed: we smelled fox, and later disturbed a beautiful Gray fellow from his daytime rest.

Without question, the impression of this Living Museum vacation which will last longest in our memories is the beauty and inspiration that can be experienced from a visit to our nature preserves, even in winter.

CONSERVANCY BOARD MEMBER POUGH RECEIVES AMERICAN MOTORS AWARD

Richard H. Pough, Conservancy Board member of Pelham, New York, is announced a winner of the American Motors Conservation Award of $500 and a bronze plaque.

The award, one of ten given to professional conservationists throughout the nation each year, will be presented to Mr. Pough at a future date.

In a letter congratulating Mr. Pough, George Romney, president of American Motors Corporation, said: "The awards program was inaugurated in 1953, as a means of publicly recognizing the material and spiritual importance of preserving our renewable natural resources. It is our hope that, as the program continues year by year, it will bring renewed inspiration not only to those receiving the awards, but also to their colleagues in conservation everywhere, and that it will help to focus public thought upon the imperative and continuing need for sound conservation practice."

New Life Members

Miss Mary Pardee Allison
Mr. George N. Appell
Miss Dorothy F. Bidwell
Dr. Margery C. Carlson
Mr. Elliott Donnelley
Mr. Melvin Finn
Mr. James L. Goodwin
Mr. Charles M. Grace
Mr. Earl H. Hodge
Miss Alla A. Libbey
Mr. William McC. Martin, Jr.
Mr. James Marvin
Miss Hedwig Michel
Mrs. Alma H. Muhlhauser
Mr. Hugh D. Pallister, Jr.
Mr. Warwick Potter
Mrs. Henry T. Read
Mrs. Susan A. Reed
Mrs. H. C. Tate

CRUM CREEK VALLEY THREATENED

Citizens of Crum Creek Valley, 12 miles from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, are protesting a proposed six-lane interstate highway through their peaceful little valley where thousands of people hike, boat, swim, fish and ice skate, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

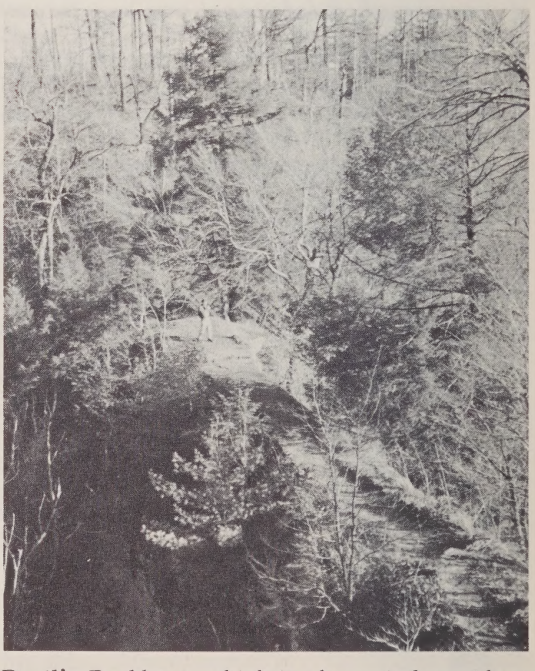
The engineers of the Pennsylvania Highway Department see only the loss of a $50 million federal road subsidy for the country if these objections are upheld. This short sighted view is contrary to the recommendations outlined in the recent report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission which stated that if essential needs are to be met more recreational areas close to metropolitan centers are necessary. Crum Creek Valley admirably meets the Commission's suggestions.

Six-Year Dream Realized

PINE HILLS DEDICATED

Six years ago a man had a dream. He had spent the summers of 1949, 1950 and 1951 at Shades State Park in Indiana working as a naturalist. Nearby Pine Hills proved to be a natural area with unusual geological and botanical features. He envisioned this area as a valuable addition to the existing state park.

In 1954, Dr. Jack McCormick, currently on the faculty of Ohio State University, interested The Nature Conservancy in this project. On October 16, 1961, Pine Hills, situated on Sugar Creek in Montgomery County, was presented to the State of Indiana. The deed to the 595-acre tract was accepted on behalf of the State by Governor Matthew E. Welsh. It is now a part of the Shades State Park.



Devil's Backbone, which is about six feet wide at the top at the narrowest point, is one of the most interesting features in Pine Hills Natural Area.

"It Is Worth Owning..."

"Bird" by Lois and Louis Darling. With a foreword by Roger Tory Peterson. (Houghton Mifflin Company. 261 pages, $5.00)

A sharptailed sparrow conceals its nest in the hay which grows along a tidal marsh. ---Picture credit: Marion Smith

The narrow lines that separates the professional and his technical jargon from the oversimplifications of the popularizer is a difficult one to follow; but Lois and Louis Darling have done so successfully in their new book, "Bird."

Starting with the evolution of birds from more primitive forms of life, they move on, in logical sequence, to subjects like migrations, instincts, behaviour and flight; and all of this is done in clear, easy-to-understand language, accompanied by well-done illustrations that help explain the more complicated points. Special credit is also due to the publisher for putting the pictures next to the pertinent text. The pictures are where they belong. None of this turning back ten pages for plate five and ahead twenty for plate six for either the Darlings or Houghton Mifflin.

For the curious, here is a random sampling of the questions that the Darlings answer. How can a woodcock see behind itself, when its beak is in the ground? What should a person do, if he finds a stray nestling? What kind of sounds can a bird hear? And why is it possible for a humming bird to hover, when other birds cannot? And the answers are not only there; they are also understandable.

But the Darlings, both of whom are active workers in behalf of The Nature Conservancy, have not produced merely another interesting volume to add to the bird lover's library, they have told in sensitive terms a story dealing with the whole mystery of life. When the reader is finished, he should put the book down with a sense of awe.

Alexander B. Adams

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW YORK

The Nature Conservancy was represented at the annual meeting of the National Advisory Council of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., in New York on February 16 by James B. Ross, Reinhold Publishing Co., member of the Board of Governors, The Nature Conservancy and Bruce Dowling, assistant to the director.

Highlights of the day-long meeting, attended by officers of 54 public-interest organizations and 11 Federal Governmental agencies, included an award by KAB to the State of Kentucky for its litter-prevention and beautification program, and a report on a motiyational study on the psychology of littering.

Governor Bert T. Combs accepted the award on behalf of the "Make Kentucky A Cleaner, Greener Land" program.

DING DARLING

Jay N. (Ding) Darling, famous conservationist and newspaper cartoonist died February 12 in Des Moines, Iowa, at the age of 85.

His cartoons for The Des Moines Register and Tribune and The New York Herald Tribune, were syndicated to more than 150 daily newspapers. Deeply dedicated to conservation, he frequently made the waste of natural resources and the indifference of the public and politicians the targets of his trenchant pen. He twice won the Pulitzer prize for editorial cartoons.

As chief of the U.S. Biological Survey under President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Interior Secretary Harold Ickes in 1934 and 1935, he boosted funds for wildlife projects by $20,000,000 and added more than 4,000,000 acres to the national wildlife refuges.

A CONSERVATIONIST'S CREDO

"God has given us the Earth for our life.

It is a great entail.

It belongs as much to those who follow us as it does to us,

And we have no right by anything we may do or neglect to do,

To involve them in unnecessary penalties or to deprive them of benefits which are theirs by right."

---Ruskin

A CONSERVATION ETHIC

TIDAL MARSHES

by

Richard H. Goodwin

"We know that engines and governments are organisms; that tampering with a part may affect the whole. We do not yet know that this is true of soils and water. Thus men too wise to tolerate hasty tinkering with our political constitution accept without qualm the most radical amendment to our biotic constitution."

---Aldo Leopold

Have you ever taken a low-altitude flight along the Atlantic Coast almost anywhere between Portsmouth, New Hampshire and the shores of Delaware Bay? It can be a most interesting experience, and alarming if one understands the biological significance of what one sees. Everywhere the cancer of dark dredged muck, light sandy fill, gray smoking dumps and parking lots of shimmering tar are spreading across the lush green marsh lands. Channels and harbors are being carved out of them for marinas. Factories, highways, sewage disposal works, oil depots, utility plants, and housing developments are all pushing into this open space. Dark or discolored effluent issues from many of the streams and outfall sewers, and bay after bay is filled with fantastic numbers of small pleasure crafts.

Why, you may ask, is this not the natural and necessary consequence of our tremendous population growth? In an unregulated and free society man tends to follow the path of least resistance, to exploit available resources to suit his immediate ends. Thus the marshlands, which cannot be walked across or dwelt in, have naturally enough been viewed as expendable. If the public should recognize these areas as a highly valuable and vanishing resource of great importance to our present and future welfare, however, their destruction would be drastically curtailed.

Recent research is turning up the significant fact that estuaries are among the most naturally fertile areas of the world. Acre for acre they may well provide more food than any other comparable space. Their biology is extremely complex due to the wide variety of environments involved and to the diversity of species that derive their nourishment from these interdependent habitats.

A key to the productivity of the estuary is the tidal marsh, which grows each year an abundant crop of "salt hay." Although not usually harvested by man, this plant material provides the food and shelter for many species of marsh birds, mammals, snails, mussels, crabs, and insects. The major portion of the crop, however, is decomposed by bacterial action, and the products of decay are washed offshore to provide nutrients for shell fish and microscopic plants -- both bottom algae and phytoplankton -- that serve as the base for an aquatic food chain.

Most laymen are not aware that the shallow tidal channels that thread a salt marsh are the spawning and nursery grounds for such important species of fish as the menhaden, striped bass, blue fish, and flounder. These species as adults feed in deeper waters and some, in turn, are food for larger fish, such as tuna. Thus the productivity of the sea, which is becoming increasingly important to our growing population, is dependent in part upon the health of this narrow fringe of marshland along our shores.

The survival of our marshlands is important out of all proportion to the acreage involved. The perennial harvest of scallops, clams, oysters, fish, and wildfowl that are dependent upon them may provide our bodies with nourishment, while from their beauty and biological diversity we may gain spiritual refreshment. Should we not be thinking in terms of establishing "estuarine conservation districts" to preserve this natural inheritance for our future use and enjoyment?

Editor's note: Reprinted from Massachusetts Audubon, Spring 1962. Picture credit--Annette B. Cottrell.

TRIBUTE TO CONSERVANCY MEMBER OF LONG STANDING

"Bertha H. Fuller of Inglewood, Calif. has devoted her adult life to a campaign of conservation of our natural resources. She has stood consistently in the forefront of all undertakings which opposed the inroads of selfish interests, and the erosion of wilderness and beauty spots." This was the opening statement made by Roy Rosenberg in his column DOWN THE LINE, Inglewood News, Tuesday, March 6, 1962.

Mr. Rosenberg further said: "...she is engaged in separate campaigns to preserve this country in general, and natural beauty spots in particular, for generations yet unborn.

"Mrs. Fuller--who deserves widespread and popular support in her conservation campaigns--believes that the cliffs of our coast should be developed and preserved. There should be provided drives for visitors and inhabitants within sight of our ocean, rapidly being shut out from the public by private buildings....such areas should be preserved for the benefit of the many.

"This valiant crusader is also battling to help preserve the Tule Elk in Owens Valley, which face extinction, and she is urging that 240 square miles of land, owned by the City of Los Angeles, in the Owens Valley, be set aside as a great national park or total refuge for these beautiful animals."

All of California is estimably richer because of the conservation campaigns which this wonderful woman has championed in the past 40 years. Inglewood ought to pay her honor.... The Nature Conservancy and its members take this opportunity to do so.

* * * * *

"O what a glory doth this world put on
For him who, with a fervent heart, goes forth
Under the bright and glorious sky, and looks
On duties well performed, and days well spent!
For him the wind, ay, and the yellow leaves,
Shall have a voice, and give him eloquent
teachings."

---Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"We are losing the capacity for wonder, the power to see and feel the miracles of life and beauty around us, without which our souls are half-empty and real fullness of life is denied us."

---E. J. Urwick

JUNE DATE SET FOR COLLEGE NATURAL AREA SYMPOSIUM

A Symposium on College Natural Areas is to be held on June 1st at the Robert Allerton Park of the University of Illinois in Monticello.

The purpose of the Symposium is to evaluate the roles of natural areas as research and educational facilities in institutions of higher learning. The meeting will serve to bring together administrators, managers and researchers from colleges which now maintain natural areas to exchange experiences and to formulate new concepts regarding college natural areas.

The program will consist of a morning session on "The Role of Natural Areas in Research and Education" and an afternoon session on the "Establishment, Management and Preservation of Natural Areas."

Following the Symposium, on Saturday, June 2nd, there will be a meeting of the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

ORRC REPORT RELEASED

The long awaited report, Outdoor Recreation for America, prepared by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, was presented to the President and the Congress on January 31. The most interesting recommendations of this exhaustive study are the adoption of a National Outdoor Recreation Policy, the establishment of a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in the Department of the Interior and the creation of a Federal Grants-in-Aid Program to States.

"America the Beautiful" may someday be an empty phrase unless we act now to preserve our wilderness areas.

---William Hard

William Hard, Sr., 83, pioneer radio news commentator, free-lance writer and a roving editor for Reader's Digest since 1940, died February 2 at his home in New Canaan, Conn.

Mr. Hard was a member of The Nature Conservancy from its inception in 1951 and also served as a member of the Board of Governors for many years.

A vital interest in conservation prompted Mr. Hard to write "Save a Spot of Beauty for America" (Reader's Digest, January 1960). The response to this article gave The Nature Conservancy its greatest forward movement.

Mr. Hard will be sorely missed and long remembered by members of The Nature Conservancy.

CONSERVANCY BOARD MEMBER ROSS APPOINTED ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF REINHOLD BOOK DIVISION

James B. Ross has been appointed to the newly created position of assistant general manager of the Book Division, according to an announcement by Fred P. Peters, executive vice president of Reinhold Publishing Corporation and general manager of the Reinhold Book Division.

Mr. Ross joined Reinhold in 1957, when he organized and became manager of Reinhold's College Textbook Department. Under his direction, the Department has developed several series of textbooks in the agricultural, biological, and electrical engineering sciences, and in chemistry, physics, and chemical and industrial engineering. In addition, a paper-back textbook series "Selected Topics in Modern Chemistry" was launched last November. He will continue as manager of the College Textbook Department in addition to his new appointment. As assistant general manager, he will be staff assistant to Mr. Peters in the general direction of the Book Division, and be specifically responsible for directing and coordinating the activities of the General Sales, Educational Sales, Advertising and Promotion, and Production Departments.

Mr. Ross is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a past president (1958-60), and a member of the Board of Governors of The Nature Conservancy, and is currently a member of the American Chemical Society, American Society for Engineering Education, American Institute of Biological Sciences, Sigma Xi, Ecological Society of America, and the Association of Southeastern Biologists.

PRAIRIE CHICKEN REFUGE PLANNED

The first refuge for prairie chickens is about to be established in Illinois by the Prairie Chicken Foundation with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy.

The area is a 77-acre tract in Jasper County, southwest of Newton, Illinois, where 160 prairie chickens compose the largest flock of less than 1,000 birds counted in Illinois last year. The flock depends on this site for its nesting and wintering ground. While the land had been previously cultivated, it is fast returning to natural prairie. Upland plover, sparrows, larks and other birds and animals use the area as a breeding ground.

Three years ago representatives of the Illinois Audubon Society, the Illinois Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, The Illinois Division of the Izaak Walton League and the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy joined together to form the Prairie Chicken Foundation of Illinois, Inc. In May 1961, an option was taken to purchase the refuge at a total cost of $18,200. In order to meet the option due on April first, a loan was needed. The Nature Conservancy was glad to assist the Foundation by providing a loan of up to $6,600 in order to insure the protection of this dwindling species.

"WILDCAT MOUNTAIN" FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA TRACT GIVEN TO CONSERVANCY

An outstanding forest tract and wildlife preserve within 45 miles of metropolitan Washington has been acquired by The Nature Conservancy.

The 1000-acre tract, known as Wildcat Mountain, in Fauquier County, Virginia was given by Russell M. Arundel and Mrs. Arundel of Warrenton, Virginia for the purpose of study and research by scientific groups, nature study classes and wildlife societies.

A mixed maturing forest representing most trees common to the Central Appalachians covers the entire west side of the mountain from summit to valley. It has a wildlife refuge containing deer, wild turkey, grouse and some of the larger predators.

A local committee has been set up to administer the area.

> "To be whole and harmonious, man must also know the music of the beaches and the woods. He must find the thing of which he is an infinitesimal part and nurture it and love it, if he is to live."
>
> ---Justice William O. Douglas

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

A check for $138.00 was recently received from the Southern California Chapter as the return on a public lecture and showing of slides presented by the Chairman, Dr. Mildred Mathias. In the next mail came another check from an Audubon Club in Westchester County, New York. It was sent in lieu of an honorarium for a program given by Mr. Daniel Smiley, one of our most active workers.

These are samples of ways whereby those of special talents can both tell the story of The Nature Conservancy and help provide the necessary financial support.

At the entrance of the Deer Lick Sanctuary in Western New York is a beautiful hand-carved and painted sign marking the preserve. It represented many hours of work by Mrs. Sylvia Brockner, now Chapter Chairman.

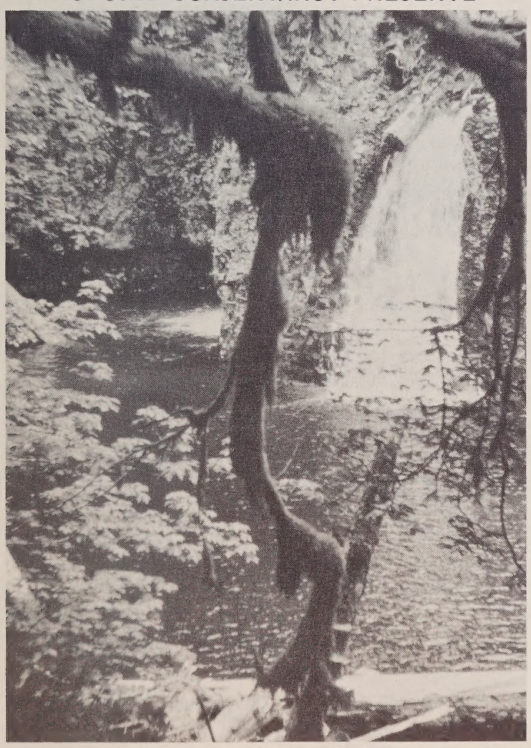
Dr. William Vinal has devoted many days to conducting tours of the Black Pond Reserve in Massachusetts. These are but a few illustrations of the many ways in which a host of people are serving The Nature Conservancy.

To all these special volunteers, to all the Chapters and project workers who are doing so much for the organization, your Director wants to express his deep appreciation.

At the same time the opportunity cannot be passed up to add that there is much unfinished work to be done and only by a united volunteer effort can it be accomplished.

Walter S. Boardman
Executive Director

PROPOSED CONSERVANCY PRESERVE



"A Place in the Wilderness"--Lower Butte Creek Falls near Portland, Oregon.

Picture courtesy: R. E. Landsburg

KORESHAN UNITY PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Mr. Melvin Finn, Chairman of the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, reports that successful negotiations between the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials and Miss Hedwig Michel, president of Koreshan Unity, have resulted in the acquisition of Florida's 38th state park. Mr. Finn acted as an advisor to the group of donors.

The property totals 290 acres in three parcels. One hundred acres is located along the Tamiami Trail at Estero, 70 acres on both sides of the mouth of the Estero River and a 120-acre Mound Key, an uninhabited island off the river mouth in Estero Bay. The area is notable for its plant and bird life. It includes a museum which preserves the relics of the early pioneer movement, Koreshan Unity, whose members believed the world to be a hollow ball with its inhabitants living inside.

CONSERVANCY PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Two new publications are available, they are: HIGHLIGHTS OF 1961 - A Progress Report on Land Acquisition and Information Bulletin #32 - Vegetation Management on Right-of-Ways. Reprints of - A Case for Natural Areas, by Fleur Grandjouan and Checklist of Educational Environments Desirable on School-Controlled Property, are also available.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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Membership Progress Report

The paid up memberships in The Nature Conservancy has shown a marked growth over the previous year, but still falls short of the goals set for 1962. As of March 23, there were 3,639 members who had paid their dues directly to the Washington office or had been reported from the chapters. This is about 800 more than had paid up at the corresponding time last year. The analysis of returns show that 2,717 were from chapter areas and 922 were from the non-chapter sections of the nation.

Chapter standings are as follows:

Arizona	23
Arkansas	23
Northern California	158
Monterey Bay	28
Orange-San Diego	31
Southern California	147
Connecticut	182
Glastonbury	29
Florida	98
Illinois	218
Indiana	59
Maine	32
Minnesota	80
Missouri	136
Long Island	317
Eastern New York	88
Western New York	114
Ohio	525
Oregon	22
Texas	36
Vermont	11
Virginia	89
Washington	21
Wisconsin	250

You will note Ohio continues to be far in the lead with 525, followed by Long Island with 317 and Wisconsin with 250. The only other chapter with over 200 is Illinois with 218.

Life members are reported separately.

In an effort to reach the 2,838 other people who have been a member at one time or another in recent years, a special appeal was mailed out directly from the Washington office on March 28. It was pointed out that if those who obviously have a direct interest in the work of The Nature Conservancy were to all renew their memberships at this time, our goal of six thousand would be far exceeded.

One of the disappointing sidelights on this year's membership campaign has been the low percentage of those joining upon the recommendation of members. To date this stands at about six percent or only slightly better than might be expected from a general mailing appeal to any segment of the public. Whether this is due to timing and wording of the letters of invitation that went out or due to lack of interest on the part of those so recommended is not known.

Many of us have given a subscription to a paper or magazine to a friend or to someone to whom we wished to say "Thank You" in a special sort of way. Have you thought about giving a membership to someone as a goodwill gesture? At the same time, you will be materially aiding the organization in gaining the membership so very much needed.

For your convenience, the form below may be used in thus providing a membership. Use of these forms will clearly mark this as a gift membership and a special note of explanation will go with the membership card to the person designated.

- -

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
2039 K Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Date: _____

Please send a Gift Membership in The Nature Conservancy to:

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Name of Donor _____

Address _____

Annual Membership $5, Sustaining Member $10, Contributing Member $25, Life Member $200 or more, Patron $1,000 or more.

(Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.)